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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/670,523

09/26/2003

Akira Ibuka

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EXAMINER

DINH, TAN X

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2627

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/670,523

Applicant(s)

IBUKA ET AL.

Examiner

TAN X. DINH

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

1) Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

2) The drawings are objected to because *figure 6* should be designated by a legend such as --PRIOR ART-- since only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "REPLACEMENT SHEET" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures.

If the changes are not accepted by the Examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3) The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification does not provide the meaning and/or function of "SP/HP" key.

Appropriate correction is required.

Art Unit: 2627

4) The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The following title is suggested:

AUDIO PLAYBACK DEVICE CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS IN DUAL MODES.

5) Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The phrase " the lower priority one " (claim , line) lacks clear antecedent basis. No " lower priority one " has been previously recited in the claim and therefore the limitation cannot be understood.

6) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

7) (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Art Unit: 2627

8) Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by YASUHARA (US 2003/0053638).

YASUHARA discloses a play back device as claimed in claims 1 and 7, comprising:

a plurality of play-back sources (figure 1 and paragraph [0035];

a first output unit and a second output unit for selecting at least one of the play-back sources to output play-back signals from the at least one of the play-back source (Fig.1 front speaker 10, rear speaker 11, wireless headphones 13 and 12);

a first operation unit for operations relating to the first output unit (Fig.1, head unit 2); and

a second operation unit for operations relating to the second output unit (Fig.1, rear controller 3);

wherein the improvement includes a control unit for inhibiting, when a common play-back source is selected by the first output unit and the second output unit and if it is decided that the play-back signals from the common play-back source are in an output-stopped state, the release of the output-stopped state even if the operation to release the output-stopped state is done from the second operation unit (paragraph [0013], [0014] and [0015]. In this case, the control unit can *disable the operation of the rear*

Art Unit: 2627

controller which makes the operation of output-stopped state from rear controller is ineffective state).

As to claim 5, YASUHARA shows second output unit is headphone (Fig.1, headphones 12 and 13).

As to claim 6, YASUHARA shows first output unit outputs the playback signals to the front of vehicular compartment (Fig.1, front speaker 10) and second output unit outputs the playback signals to the rear side of the vehicular compartment (Fig.1, rear speaker 11).

9) The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10) This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

Art Unit: 2627

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11) Claims 2-4, 8 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over YASUHARA (US 2003/0053638).

YASUHARA discloses all the subject matter as claimed in claims 2-4, 8, 10-13, except to specifically show an interruption detecting unit and an output stop setting unit. However, these functions are old and widely used in the audio reproducing art as admitted by applicant in the specification, paragraph [0020], therefore, someone within the level of skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would be able to use an interruption detecting unit and an output stop setting unit in YASUHARA's car audio device as claimed.

Claim 14 is rejected with the same reasons set forth in claim 6 above.

12) Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

13) The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant is reminded that in amending in response to a rejection of claims (if the rejection involves with any applicable arts), the patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and the objection made. Applicant must also show how the amendments avoid such references and objections. See 37 CFR § 1.111(c).

Form PTO-892 is attached herein.

14) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TAN Xuan DINH whose telephone number is (571)-272-7586. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-FRIDAY from 8:00AM to 5:30PM.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



TAN DINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

August 23, 2006